

REMARKS

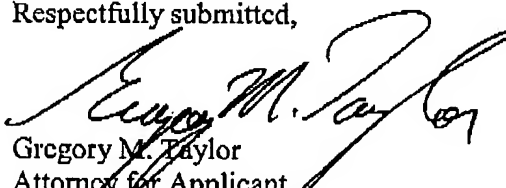
Claims 12 and 16 have been amended. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are pending in the present application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interviews on December 2 and 8, 2003, in which the present claims were discussed. The Examiner indicated that if the present amendments were made to claims 12 and 16 that all claims would be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present claims. In the event there remains any impediment to allowance of the application, which could be clarified in a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 9th day of December 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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